

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Cross-Reference to Related Application, which is found on page 1, lines 4 and 5, with the following amended paragraph:

This application claims priority to Provisional Application Serial No. 60/419,992, filed on October 21, 2002, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 5, lines 22-27, with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment illustrated, keel guide system 30 also comprises a connector 40, such as a tieback connector. Keel guide 32 is sized to permit the passage of connector 40 as riser assembly 34 is fed downwardly towards the subsea floor. Additionally, keel guide 32 may be attached to a structure 42 which, by way of example, comprises a hull of a vessel or a platform used in an offshore application. In various embodiments, the vessel or platform may include, but are not limited to, a spur platform or a tension leg platform (TLP). Keel guide 32 is attached to the vessel or platform via an appropriate bracket 44.